

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

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C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 4148

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: US, JA, PFOR
SUBJECT: REACTION TO PRESIDENT'S UN SPEECH

REF: STATE 62223

SUMMARY: FONOFF REGARDED PRESIDENT'S UN ADDRESS AS CLEAR, CRISP, MEATY AND PARTICULARLY WELCOME IN THAT IT STRESSED US COMMITMENT TO UN SYSTEM. FONOFF WAS APPREHENSIVE, HOWEVER, THAT PARAGRAPH ON NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION PRESAGED UNCOMPROMISING STANCE VIS-A-VIS JAPAN'S NUCLEAR REPROCESSING ASPIRATIONS. EDITORIAL COMMENT WAS ON WHOLE POSITIVE WITH SOME QUALIFICATIONS ON NUCLEAR-REPROCESSING ISSUE AND EXTENT TO WHICH HUMAN RIGHTS SHOULD BE PUSHED. END SUMMARY.

1. MOFA UN BUREAU DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL TOMOHIKO KOBAYASHI BRIEFED EMBOFF MARCH 22 ON FONOFF REACTION TO PRESIDENT CARTER'S ADDRESS AT UN MARCH 17, DRAWING FROM IN-HOUSE ASSESSMENT PREPARED FOR SENIOR MOFA STAFF.

2. SPEECH WAS, KOBAYASHI SAID, "A VERY GOOD
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PUBLIC RELATIONS EFFORT," PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT BECAUSE OF STRESS PLACED ON MAKING UN SYSTEM WORK. KOBAYASHI ALSO GAVE SPEECH HIGH MARKS FOR CLARITY AND CONCISENESS. HE THOUGHT "THREE PILLARS" OF US POLICY (ARMS CONTROL, INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION, HUMAN RIGHTS) WERE "VERY WELL FORMULATED." PRESIDENT CARTER'S CITATION OF CONCRETE EXAMPLES

OF US STEPS TOWARD THESE ENDS, KOBAYASHI ADDED, LENT STRENGTH TO SPEECH.

3. DISCUSSION OF COMMON FUND SEEMED TO KOBAYASHI "POSITIVE," AND A STEP FORWARD FROM PREVIOUS US PRONOUNCEMENTS ON SUBJECT. ALTHOUGH THIS PLEASED FONOFF, HE SAID, IT PROBABLY DISTRESSED FINANCE MINISTRY. FONOFF NOTED WITH PLEASURE PRESIDENT'S PROMISE TO STRENGTHEN TRADITIONAL FRIENDSHIPS AND SEEK TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH FORMER ADVERSARIES IN SOUTHEAST ASIA AND PACIFIC.

4. KOBAYASHI SAID THAT ONLY TROUBLING POINT IN SPEECH WAS DISCUSSION OS NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION. IF, HE ADDED, IMPORT WAS THAT US WAS WILLING TO SUPPLY ENRICHED URANIUM BUT NOT WILLING TO ALLOW NUCLEAR REPROCESSING UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES, IT PRESAGED "VERY SERIOUS PROBLEM" BETWEEN US AND JAPAN. THIS SERVED AS LAUNCHING PAD FOR HIS EXPOSITION, IN TERMS FAMILIAR TO DEPARTMENT, OF JAPANESE REPROCESSING IMPERATIVES.

5. IN CONCLUSION, KOBAYASHI SAID, JAPANESE ENVIED US ABILITY TO ESTABLISH AND STATE UNAMBIGUOUS FOREIGN-POLICY LINE. ALTHOUGH THE WORLD HAD MIXED FEELINGS ABOUT US "HUMAN RIGHTS DIPLOMACY," HE MUSED, IT CLEARLY HAD GREAT POPULAR APPEAL, AND SEEMED TO BE BOOSTING US IMAGE FROM POST-VIETNAM AND WATERGATE LOW.

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6. FOCUSING ON "THREE PILLARS" OF CARTER ADMINISTRATION FOREIGN POLICY, JAPANESE EDITORIAL COMMENT GENERALLY EXPRESSED POSITIVE SUPPORT FOR PRESIDENT'S UN ADDRESS. TOKYO SHIMBUN OBSERVED THAT THROUGH EMPHASIS ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND DISARMAMENT, PRESIDENT WAS ATTEMPTING TO "STRENGTHEN US LEADERSHIP IN THE WEST" -- AN EFFORT WHICH JAPAN SHOULD WELCOME. EDITORIAL WARNED, HOWEVER, THAT ON SPECIFIC ISSUES SUCH AS NUCLEAR REPROCESSING JAPANESE AND AMERICAN INTERESTS MIGHT COME INTO CONFLICT. NIHON KEIZAI ALSO TOUCHED ON WORLD LEADERSHIP THEME, NOTING THAT SPEECH ILLUSTRATED PRESIDENT'S "UNIQUE" PERSONAL IDEALISM AND COMMITMENT. ASAHI STRUCK MORE CAUTIOUS NOTE. WHILE APPLAUDING PRESIDENT'S GOALS, EDITORIAL EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT "HUMAN RIGHTS OFFENSIVE" ON PART OF WASHINGTON MIGHT IMPAIR SALT II TALKS. BUTTON

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